

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph

(3" x 3" or 3-1/2" x 5" black and white only) Label photo on back with town and property address. Record film roll and negative numbers here on the form. Staple photo to left side of form over this space. Attach additional photos to continuation sheets.

Roll Negative(s)

1	9-11
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Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Recorded by Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates
P.O. Box 1394
Woodstock NY 12498

Organization Eastham Historical Commission

Date (month / year) August 2005

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

Town EASTHAM

Place (neighborhood or village)

Eastham Center

Address 705 Doane Road

Historic Name Doane – Duncan House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction c. 1830; 1917

Source Deed & map history records; owner's account

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder Harvey Moore, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete block

Wall/Trim wood clapboard; wood shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates)

None since c. 1917

Condition excellent

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes **Date** possibly 1917
(19th-century portion house moved or raised on concrete block foundation)

Acreage 5.50 acres

Setting The house is sited on land north of Doane Road and is oriented south towards Nauset Bay, although the wooded site now obscures any potential views

24-22	ORLEANS		216
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BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house at 55 Clark's Point Road is a one story, wood frame dwelling with an T-shaped plan with intersecting hipped and gable roofs. (MHC # 214) Principal entrances are located at the interior intersection on the south side of the building – one entrance into each part – from a low, rail-less deck. The exterior has wood shingle walls and a wood shingle roof. Windows contain plain one-over-one sashes with simple board trim. Brick chimneys are located in the ridges at the center of the roofs of each section.

As built in 1925, the roof of the house had deeper eaves and was originally covered with asbestos shingles, which the hunters concealed with evergreen tree boughs. Otherwise, the house is essentially intact on the exterior and interior, although the in the latter case minor changes have been made to enable winterization. The main living room retains the bead board ceiling nailed to the rafters with large images of geese painted by Frank Benson, one of the artists who owned the property. A kitchen ell creates the base of the T-shaped plan, and the northerly arm contains bedrooms.

The camp is situated in a small clearing in a wooded peninsula on the south end of Great Pond. The west façade is close to the shoreline, and a large deck has been constructed there. A large lawn extends eastward from the house, extending to the water on the other side of the peninsula. Rows of cedars were planted east and north of the house to conceal is and allow hunters to stalk their waterfowl prey. Portions of this screen, now with trees of substantial height, remain.

A square plan, wood frame garage with a hipped roof is located east of the house. (MHC # 215) It has wood shingle siding on the exterior and a wood shingle roof. There are two vehicle stalls with overhead doors. The garage was reputedly built before the present house (c. 1910). The west wall facing the pond is said to have been painted in camouflage colors and screened by an arbor to make it less conspicuous from the water. These features no longer exist. There are also a small shed and a pump house on the property.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The current dwelling at 55 Clark's Point Road—a private way branching in a northwesterly direction from Samoset Road to the southwestern shore of Great Pond in Eastham, Massachusetts—was built in 1925. The garage just southwest of the house is believed to be original to the time of the original dwelling on the site of about 1897. Based on plans for a modification, never undertaken, of the original dwelling, it appears that the current structure is stylistically similar to, though larger than, the original.¹

The original dwelling was built as a gunning camp for Maurice Howe Richardson (1851-1912), a renowned Boston surgeon and Harvard Medical School professor who became the first surgeon-in-chief at Massachusetts General Hospital in August 1911.² On 10 December 1896 Richardson purchased the property from John A. Clark, a farmer whose family had owned a vast tract of property from the southern edge of Great Pond to Cape Cod Bay since at least the 1850s. Edward C. Clark Sr., Clark's father, had once run a tannery on this land.³ The 1858 Henry F. Walling *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts* shows Edward C. Clark Sr. and Jr. as well as Myrick Clark as the only property owners between the bay and this area south of Great Pond and north of Herring Pond. Richardson bought five acres of the Clark land along the shore of Great Pond, extending from a section of Clark's woodland on the east and the far smaller Bridge Pond on the west.

Richardson's son Wyman, a physician, naturalist, and sportman, dubbed the building "Great Pond Camp" in his well-regarded book, *The House on Nauset Marsh* (1955), first serialized in *Atlantic Monthly* between 1947 and 1954.⁴ But this Great Pond Camp was not the first camp Richardson came to in Eastham: in 1891 or 1892 he and his brothers-in-law Edward L. Peirson and the American Impressionist and waterfowl artist Frank W. Benson (1862-1951) purchased the property at Nauset Road that included the former Simeon Doane house (310R Nauset Road), an eighteenth-century half-cape.⁵ That house inspired Wyman Richardson's series and book and was ever after known as the House on Nauset Marsh.

¹ Sarah Korjeff, interview with Kathryn Grover, 8 December 2004.

² Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard University Libraries Website, <http://oasis.harvard.edu/html/med00049.html>. Frederick C. Richardson, a grandson of Maurice Howe Richardson, has stated in addition that Richardson may have been the first to perform abdominal surgery at Mass General. Frederick C. Richardson, e-mail to Kathryn Grover, 15 December 2004.

³ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds Book 227:78 (hereafter cited as BCD); Alice A. Lowe, comp., *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham* (Eastham, MA: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), 42-43. See also the 1850 (household 136-37; families 151-52) and 1860 (172-75; 177-81) federal censuses for Eastham on the Clark families.

⁴ Wyman Richardson, *The House on Nauset Marsh* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1955), flyleaf.

⁵ On this family relation, see Faith Andrews Bedford, *Frank W. Benson, American Impressionist* (New York: Rizzoli, 1994), 55-56. On the Nauset Road camp purchase, see Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B, 310 R Nauset Road, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, and, for Benson's account of his search for a gunning camp, his first trip to the Cape, and how he came to Eastham, see Faith Andrews Bedford, *Frank W. Benson: A Retrospective* (New York: Berry-Hill Galleries, Inc., May 17-June 24, 1989), in particular 164 n. 65.

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Like other elite sportsmen, Maurice Richardson, Benson, and Pierson had been drawn to the Cape by the abundance of birds on the Atlantic Flyway. Benson's biographer has stated that the three long wanted "a shack somewhere by the sea where [they] might fish and shoot ducks and shorebirds." Dismissing already crowded Ipswich on the Massachusetts North Shore, they first considered Chatham, but at that town's rail station a fellow gunner advised, "'Don't go to Chatham . . . too many gunners. Go to North Eastham and stop with John Horton and he will show you around.' Nothing suited the men until they struck the head of the marsh at Little Creek. Benson wrote, 'When we saw that we didn't want to look further. There were black ducks and whistlers before us and the place seemed just what we were looking for. . . . We agreed on a price of \$650. Your father took one half and Uncle Ned and I each took one quarter.'"⁶

Within five years of purchasing the Nauset Road property, Richardson turned his attention to Great Pond. He had purchased the land on 10 December of 1896, so construction on the camp cannot have begun until 1897. As a boy Wyman Richardson spent his Christmas vacations at the Great Pond Camp and recalled its early years:

This camp was very gradually assembled by my father. It started with a small shack to keep warm the gunners who were shooting the 'blind,' and finally developed into a comfortable, sprawling building, nestled down among black alders and cedars. In the beginnings, the gunners would walk over from the Farm House [310R Nauset Road] to shoot, and then back again for dinner, but, when I was growing up, the Pond Camp was a going concern, and the little Farm House remained deserted.

At Christmas time, we hoped and prayed for a real nor'-wester. Under such conditions, the black ducks coming out of the Nauset Marsh at Eastham, and Pleasant Bay at Chatham, would cross the Cape in the vicinity of the Great Pond, pitch down over the pines on the northwest shore of the pond, and skim the half mile of dunes to the west shore at grass-top level. Once in a dog's age, conditions would be just right, and we could station ourselves on the sand hills overlooking the shore and have the prettiest and most difficult pass shooting that ever was.⁷

Because it was a gunning camp, the roof was covered with a network of evergreen (probably cedar) branches, documented in at least one photograph, to conceal the structure from ducks and other game birds. Several series of cedar rows were also planted on the pond north of the camp leading to three or four duck blinds; the remnants of two of these are still visible on the property. In addition, the side of the garage facing the pond was hidden in part by a wall of shrubbery arbor and in part by camouflage painted directly on the wall.⁸

Benson was an avid gunner, hunting often with Edward Peirson, Richardson, and Richardson's Wyman and Edward, who both ultimately owned their own camps on the Nauset Road property.⁹ He also hunted with his

⁶On gunning camps, see O'Connell, *Becoming Cape Cod*, 5; on Richardson and Benson, see Faith Andrews Bedford, *Frank W. Benson: A Retrospective* (New York: Berry-Hill Galleries, Inc., May 17-June 24, 1989), 164 n. 65 quoting a 27 August 1940 letter.

⁷ Richardson, *House on Nauset Marsh*, 82-83.

⁸ Korjeff, interview with Grover.

⁹ Edward P. Richardson, born in 1881, was also a surgeon and professor at Harvard Medical School. In 1923 he was named to fill the post of surgeon-in-chief earlier held by his father. Richardson lived in Brookline and was the father of Elliot S. Richardson, former President Richard Nixon's Secretary of Defense and then short-lived Attorney General; he resigned in October 1973 after he

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fellow Boston artist Dwight Blaney (1865-1944), who had made his first purchase of land on the north side of Great Pond on 1 December 1896, just ten days before Richardson had.¹⁰ By 1901 Blaney and Richardson had purchased two adjoining parcels between Great Pond Road and the east side of the pond with Matthew Luce Jr., a wool merchant who lived at that time in Cohasset on the Massachusetts south shore. Benson and Blaney were close friends, both had working space in Boston's Fenway Studios, and both painted Eastham views.¹¹

Maurice Richardson was clearly an affluent man. In 1910 his Boston household on Beacon Street included his wife, four sons, one daughter, and seven Irish and French women listed as servants—a cook, two waitresses, a parlor maid, a chambermaid, a seamstress, and a laundress. He died in 1912, the year after he was appointed surgeon-in-chief at Massachusetts General Hospital, and five years later his widow Margaret W. Richardson purchased a tract slightly larger than two acres, abutting the Great Pond Camp parcel on the south and east, from John A. Clark's daughter Eva M. and her husband Almond L. Nickerson. Eva Nickerson had earlier purchased the quarter-interests in the property left to her siblings Nathan P. Clark, Tamzen A. Nickerson, and

refused to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who had been one of his professors at Harvard Law School. Under former President Gerald Ford, Richardson served as ambassador to Great Britain and Secretary of Commerce.

¹⁰ On Blaney, see Trevor J. Fairbrother et al., *The Bostonians: Painters of an Elegant Age, 1870-1930* (Boston, MA: Museum of Fine Arts, 1986), 200-201; on Blaney and Benson's association, see Faith Andrews Bedford, *Frank W. Benson, American Impressionist* (New York: Rizzoli, 1994), 86, 147. On the Great Pond deeds, see John A. Clark to Maurice H. Richardson, 10 December 1896, BCD 227:78, and Sarah P. Smith et al. to Blaney, 1 December 1896, BCD 228:62. By 1919, and possibly earlier, there were thus at least six gunning camps in Eastham—Blaney's camp on the north side of Great Pond, the Richardsons' Great Pond Camp, another Richardson family camp on the south side of Great Pond; the Luce (later Guild) Camp; the Hemenway (later McCluskey) camp just above Hemenway Landing Road; the Mixter family camp, on Bridge Road; and several on Coast Guard beach that have not survived. Thanks to Robert L. Mumford and Sarah Korjeff for information on Eastham gunning camps. Two maps (in a private collection) drawn by Quincy Adams Shaw Jr., also a sportsman and occasional resident of Eastham, show Eastham's gunning camps and their owners on Nauset Marsh. One documents those of 1919-24 and the other those of 1919-54. Marilyn Schofield, Eastham Historical Society archivist, who cooked for the Mixter family in the 1950s, recalls that the Mixters were brothers and a son Sam, who was one of the two surgeons in the family from Boston. The Mixters used to hunt with the Richardsons and had a big stucco farmhouse off Bridge Street on the bay side with no electricity or running water and a big stone fireplace. The camp is extant. The 1930 Brookline, MA, census records a Samuel Mixter, age 38, a partner in a bond house, wife Ann, daughter Elizabeth, son Samuel age 8, and two servants on Warren Street, and a Charles G. Mixter, age 47, a surgeon, and his wife Helen, sons Worthington, Charles, Roger, daughter Ann, and two servants, on Chapel Street. No doubt Charles Mixter knew the Richardsons from Massachusetts General and may have come to Eastham because of them. Richardson's son Edward, born 1881, lived in Brookline and was also a surgeon.

¹¹ BCD 179:503, 225:596, 250:314; see also Barnstable County Plan Book 10:91 (hereafter cited as BCP), Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. See also Fairbrother et al., *The Bostonians*, 200-201. On Blaney and Benson's association, see Bedford, *Frank W. Benson, American Impressionist*, 86, 147; this book illustrates several of Benson's Eastham views, including one silhouette gunning scene of Benson, Peirson, and Maurice and Edward Richardson. Blaney painted "Little Pond, Eastham" in 1922, but otherwise not a great deal is known of his Cape work; he spent many summers on Ironbound Island in Maine, which his family purchased about 1893.

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Jennie E. Crosby by her father's will. This adjoining property was transferred with the Great Pond Camp parcel through its succeeding history.

Shortly after the property increase, in 1925, the present house was constructed. It is not known why the first camp was replaced (no record of a fire or other disaster has been recorded), but perhaps it was intended to make a primitive building more permanent. Benson painted life-size geese on each side of the slanted wooden ceiling of the main room of the Great Pond Camp that are believed to have been executed in the year it was built. According to logs in which guests registered at the Clark's Point camp, Benson visited with some frequency. An original member of the Ten American Painters, who resigned from the Society of American Artists in 1898 over the quality of the society's exhibitions and their dim view of its standards, Benson was well-known in his own time, and he probably lived comfortably on the sales of his work; Blaney may well have been one of his patrons.¹²

On 4 April 1929 four affluent Boston-area men created the Eastham Great Pond Trust to protect 55 Clark's Point Road as well as, ultimately, other parcels around the pond. The trustees were the son and grandson of the collector Quincy Shaw—Quincy A. Shaw Jr. of Boston (born about 1874) and Quincy A. Shaw III of Brookline (1897-1987)—Frederick J. Bradlee (born 1866-67), a Boston banker; and British-born G. Herbert Windeler of Boston, who some twenty years earlier had lived in Sandwich, Massachusetts, at which time he had been involved in shipping.¹³ The trust's purposes were simply to hold, buy, and transfer real and personal property for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the trust. Its beginning capital of one hundred shares was divided and that number of trustees would never be less than four. Quincy Shaw held half of the trust's initial one hundred shares of capital stock; Windeler and Bradlee each held twenty-five. Eastham Great Pond Trust was to continue for twenty years after death of the last survivor of the four original trustees unless purposes of the trust, including final distribution of its proceeds, had been completed and the trustees voted to terminate the trust.¹⁴

¹²H. Barbara Weinberg, Doreen Bolger, and David Park Curry, *American Impressionism and Realism: The Painting of Modern Life, 1885-1915* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1994), 24, states that in Boston other artists, including Blaney, were among the more consistent supporters of American Impressionist art rather than the more traditional patrons who bought art in New York City.

¹³ Carol Troyen and Pamela S. Tabbaa, *The Great Boston Collectors: Paintings from the Museum of Fine Arts* (Boston, MA: Museum of Fine Arts, 1984), 15, 16, state that Quincy Adams Shaw (1825-1908) was Boston's foremost collector of paintings of the Barbizon school, French landscapes of the mid-nineteenth century that set the stage for Impressionism. With a fortune amassed in midwestern mining in the 1860s and inspired by several trips to France and the influence of William Morris Hunt, Shaw began to purchase the works of Jean Francoise Millet. He built the largest collection of Millet's works in the United States, most of which his heirs donated to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1917. He also had a large collection of other Barbizon works and of Renaissance painting and sculpture. His wife was the naturalist Louis Agassiz's daughter, Pauline. His son and namesake had been the tennis doubles champion in 1887, 1888, and 1890 while at Harvard College. He was listed as a mining engineer in the 1900 census, when he was thirty years old, and was president of Calumet and Hecla Mining Company in 1913. However, by 1920 Shaw suffered a mental collapse and was listed in that year's census as a patient at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. Eastham is said to have been recommended to him as a place to recuperate, though he is known to have been there before 1920. Shaw's grandson Quincy Adams Shaw III, referred to in deeds as Quincy A. Shaw Jr., was also involved in Eastham and the Great Pond Trust.

¹⁴ BCD 463:562. Originally the trust was to have four trustees, but on 23 November 1951 at a meeting at Great Pond Camp the then-current trustees—Quincy A. Shaw Sr. and Jr., George S. Mumford Jr., and Charles B. Barnes Jr.—voted that the number of trustees should henceforth "shall never be less than two nor more than three." BCD 801:414. At Dwight Blaney's death in 1944 the executors of his will deeded ten parcels of Eastham land on or near Great Pond, taken together a little more than twenty acres, to the

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On the same day, the executor of the estate of Margaret W. Richardson sold the 55 Clark's Point Road property to the Eastham Great Pond Trust along with seven other parcels, several of which also bordering Great Pond. In September 1941 Windeler died, and Bradlee and Shaw chose George S. Mumford Jr., an investment broker living in Natick, to succeed him.¹⁵ Over the years since 1941, the Shaw family ultimately resigned from the trust, but Mumford's grandson Robert L. now owns the property at 55 Clark's Point Road. Winterization of the camp over the past two decades has compelled some interior renovation, though the basic spatial organization of the interior has not been altered.

Great Pond Trust. See Old Colony Trust and Robert Walcott to Quincy A. Shaw et al., trustees of Eastham Great Pond Trust, 25 April 1945, BCD 626:475.

¹⁵ Barnstable County Deeds 463:574. On Mumford's election as a trustee, see Barnstable County Deeds 587:28. In 1930, Mumford was living in Milton in a household of eight that included his wife, daughter, son and one-year-old namesake, and four servants. His father, George S. Mumford Sr., lived in Newton and was president of the Atlantic National Bank in Boston in the 1920s.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form*

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View of house and setting

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Garage



View of Great Pond and planted cedar blind

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☒ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Neil Larson (Larson Fisher Associates, Woodstock NY)
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The house and garage located at 55 Clark's Point Road are historically and architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an early 20th-century hunting camp in the Town of Eastham. It is also significant for its association with notable individuals from the Boston area who used the camp for sport and recreation.

The Great Pond Camp was established in 1897 by Maurice Howe Richardson, a Boston surgeon and Harvard Medical School professor who became the first surgeon-in-chief at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1911. Eastham was located on the great seasonal flyway on which ducks and geese made their annual migrations, and the town held a special attraction for sport gunners. The Great Pond Camp was one of about six hunting camps known to have existed in the town before 1910, and it represents an important early phase of tourism in the town, as well as on Cape Cod.

Richardson's hunting forays in Eastham began around 1895 and included his brother-in-law Frank W. Benson, an American Impressionist painter, and another artist, Dwight Blaney. Richardson's son, Wyman, was also an avid member of the hunting party. He would later write about in a serialized story in *Atlantic Monthly* that was published in book form in 1955 with the title *The House on Nauset Marsh*, which was the first place where the Richardsons "camped."

The present house was built by the family in 1925, fourteen years after Maurice Richardson's death, replacing the informal, sprawling camp that had evolved from the warming hut he first introduced to the site in 1897. Existing plans for the original building indicate that the new camp attempted to replicate it in, perhaps, a more permanent form. Frank W. Benson painted life-size depictions of geese on the ceiling that remain in place today. In 1929, the camp was conveyed to trustees that included the son and grandson of Quincy Adams Shaw, Boston's foremost collector of paintings of the Barbizon school.